

Re: OPPOSITION TO SB 227, CECIL'S LAW

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Dear Co-Chairs Kennedy and Albis, Members of the Environment Committee, and Sponsors:

I respectfully write to you in opposition to SB No. 227, Cecil's Law, which I understand is scheduled for a public hearing in your Environment Committee [on March 4, 2016](#).

Unfortunately, I cannot appear before you and testify directly because as a solo practitioner frankly it would mean a loss of income to me and my family; a concern I know you appreciate.

While the stated purpose of SB 227 is to prohibit the import, sale and trade of big-game hunting trophies from overseas, the impact, if enacted, is more troubling than perhaps you realize. I am a hunter, shooter, and handgun/long gun enthusiast; I understand the impact.

If enacted, anyone possessing for example a handgun with grips made from any of the big five animals is admittedly exempted; however, the State would immediately be stripping all of its monetary value because I can never sell or transfer it apparently. Could I no longer give it to my son when he becomes a responsible owner?

And why the expense of issuing and acquiring certifications of possession (a registry system paid for by the State or the owners)? Specimen already in would be essentially legal and the law would stop the flow into Connecticut.

By the way, if I don't know what the grips are made of and unknowingly I possess them, I'm going to jail for 2 years?

And what about those of us who legally acquired specimen for their business? Are you taking their livelihood? We do have small business here that possess, sell, and trade in these specimen. Are we pushing them out like G.E.?

Please consider amending the bill to prohibit illegally acquired specimen. Wouldn't this address your concerns without hurting residents and small business ?

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey O'Connell